A NEW BOOK ABOUT THE LONDON POOR

Mr. James Greenwood, the "amateur casual," whose remarkable adventures in a London work-house have attracted much attention in England, has published a new narrative—said to be a picture of actual life among the London poor under the title of "The True History of a Little Ragamuffin." It is highly praised by the Eng-lish journals, one of which remarks that "so graphic is it in style that we can scarcely divest ourselves of the idea that he must have been on timate terms with the ragmusin he personates. Frying-pan alley, Clerkenwell, was the place in which the hero first saw the light, his father being a "coster," and till his mother's death, which happened when he was about six years seems not to have had a particularly

There are in this volume several bits of character-drawing which are in the Dickens manner, and exceedingly good—such, for instance, as this sketch of Mrs. Winkship, a woman of business who inhabits Frying-pan alley:—

MISS WIRKSHIP.

Mrs. Winkship was an elderly lady, hving at the entrance of the alley. It a single pound, she was full five stone heavier than Mr. Piggot, to say nothing of her being considerably shorter and thicker. But it was not entirely on account of her superior size that I felt more interest in Mrs. Winkship's case than it the oublican's. As for Mr. Piggott, so long as they succeeded in removing his body, how would not have troubled me in the least; indeed, so far from being affected by the fact of his dying, I have no doubt that, had I been informed that that event had taken place on his own premises, I should have greatly rejoiced that now all chances of the occurrence of the calamity that haunted me were at an end; but in Mrs. Winkship's case, respect, not to say downight love and gratitude, entered very considerably into the question—she was a woman of business. I don't know exactly what she called herself, but she followed the business left by her husband, which was that of lending barrows and money to the many iruis-hawkers that lived in our alley. It was Mrs. Winkship's boast that since Mr. Winkship's death, which had happened thirseen years ago, she had never journey ed out of Turnmil street, except on the one occasion of hir venturing as far as the Royal Coburg Theatre at Lambeth in the pantomime sesson, when she had slipped down the gallery stairs and sprained her ankie. Her constant MRS WINKSHIP. pantomime season, when she had slipped down the gallery stairs and sprained her ankle. Her constant station was the threshold of her own house, where, seated on an upturned coke measure, with a nose-bar full of chaff for a cushion, she kept watch the livelong day. The peculiar nature of her business, or more properly speaking, of her cus omers compelled it. Un-less she caught the fellows when they returned home after dis, osing of their stock, and insisted on their "squaring up" before they went indoors, she was

sure to be a loser.

The difficulties of her business, however, afforded no material hindrance to her enjoying herselt in the ways of enting and drinking. In wet weather she sat in the passage; but while it remained fine overhead, heither breakfast, dinner, nor tea weuld drive her trom the nose, has she had no other lodger but her from the nose-bae. She had no other lodger but a niece—a lanky, pock marked young woman, who wore her hair much strained in a backward direction, and there secured in a great bunch. The frightful disease that had so seared her mee had also roobed her of an eye so that altogether she could not be called handsome; but, like her aunt, she was a good hearted crea ure, and helped me to a meal many and many a time. Site kept the key of the bar ow-shed in bog and Stile Yard, and undertook the house-cleaning for her aunt, and prepared her

They were meals! Since that memorable time it has been my good fortune to partake of many dinners that might tairly be called excellent; but not one of them ever came up to those Mrs. Winkship used to partake of. At breakfast or at tea she was nothing very great; but at dinner she was spiendid. The coke-measure, being of the half bushel size, was of a convenient height for sitting on before a bettom-up appressieve. The apple sieve was the dinna-table; and, certsin as stroke of 1 o'clock, you might see Mrs. winkship shift her coke measure from the doorway to under the parlor window, and hear her call out, "Ready, Martha, when you are!" and then Martha would ruse the parlor window, and arrange on the windowsill the salt and the vinegar, and the pepper and the mustard; then she would bring out been my good fortune to partake of many dinners on the windowshi the sair and the repeper and the mustard; then she would bring out the apple sieve, aircady spread with a cloth as white as brain new calico; and then she would bustle back into the parlor again, and hand the dinner out at the window to Mrs. Winkship.

It was always something with plenty of gravy in it—rich to look at, luscious, and smoking hot; but the most wonderful feature of Mrs. Winkship's dincer was the wind.

ners was their smell. There are meats by nature delicious smelling—roast pork, for instance; but—and how Martha managed it I could never, from and now martna managed it I could never, from that day to this, imazine—she seemed to possess the power of conferring an odor of baked crackling on the tamest meats; to conjure out of them a fingrance that seemed to cry aloud with a voice that could be heard from one end of the alley to the other. Cer-tanly; tancy may have had a great deal to do with the other of the smeller deal to do with tamly; tancy may have had a great deal to do with it; or that smelling teing our share, we made the most of it; or it may possibly have happened that Mrs. Winkship's dinner and its odor being altogether without any competition, its virtues appeared more forcibly. Whether either o: the above conjectures explains the fact I can't say; I only know that exactly as I have never seen such dinners, so have I never smelt any such. It was a common remark amongst us boys and girls, that it seemed to be always Sunday with Mrs. Winkship. After dinner she drank rum-and-water—hot, invariably. In the the depth of winter, when the snow was on the she drank rum-and-water—hot, invariably. In the the depth of winter, when the snow was on the ground, and she sat on the coke measure wearing a hairy cap with ear-laps, and wrapped in a coachman's box coat, she would drink it; in the summer time, when the cobble-stones of the valley were hot to naked leet, and the gutters too warm for a refresh-ing dabble in them, she drank it hot and strong as

Old we respect Mrs. Winkship the less on account of this weakness? Did we despise her, and taunt her, and make fun of her? We did not. How could we, when we saw how jolly it made her, and considered what a profitable weakness it was to us? We sidered what a profitable weakness it was to us? We used to tetch it for her, three-pen'orth at a time. We used to lurk in the shadow of doorways, and peep from window-blinds, keeping a sharp eye on her till the arrival of the moment for action—the moment when she waddled back from the parlor window to the doorway with her seat, and sat herself down thereon, with her fat arms contentedly folded on her lap. We used to take it in turns. The way was to stroll from your lurking-place, and saunter towards her in the most undesigned manner possible; and when you approached close enough to address her innocently, and as trough the thought bad that moment popped into your head, asking if she happened to want anything fetched. Her way, then, was to look up in an astonished manner, and as though she thought you had made a mustake—taken her for somebody clse, had made a mistake-taken her for somebody else

possibly.

"Did you speak to me, boy?"

"Yes'm. I'm going into Tummel street to fetch some treacle, in a minute, for my mother: I thought perhaps you might want seme tea, or something m."

"No, thanky, boy; my tea I've got, and my milk will be here presently. I don't think I stand in need of spething."

will be here presently. I don't think I stand in need of anything."

When it came to this, the way of the boy was to thank her very civily, and to look perfectly satisfied, and as though he well knew that since Mrs. Winkship was all right in the matters of toa and milk, she could not by any earthly possibility require anything else. If, on the contrary, the boy acted differently—if he winked, or looked knowing merely, and grinned as much as to say, "Why, what's the use of carrying on with all this joily nonsense? You know what you always have and what you want; eige me the halfalways have and what you want; give me the half-pence and say no more about it!"—I say if he said or even looked anything of this sort, he would have been sent about his business in a twinking, and scratched out of the lady's good books for no end of time; but if he managed the business neatly and turned away promptly and respectfully when he had got Mrs. Winkship's answer, it was next to a certainty that she would exclaim presently:—

Mr. Bell's invention cons ists of an alphabet of thirty signs, by means of which, and their various combinations, it is alleged, he is able to represent every sound of which the human voice is capable. The system has already won the most cordial approval of several distinguished guished philologists. Marvellous and impossible as such a system may seem, it is only the truth to say that Mr. Bell demonstrated not only its possibility, but that he had invented an alpha bet which could be used with considerable fa cility. The test was this:—A number of gentle-men present repeated to Mr. Bell sentences and phrases from a great variety of tongues—from the polished Arabic or Syriac, or Chinese, to the barbarous Hottentot and other savage languages, including several of our provincial dialects. These Mr. Bell wrote down in his alphabet, some of the sounds being such as he had not heard before, and his son, who had been in a room adjoining, was brought in and read the sounds which had been written with the most perfect exactness, rendering correctly the drawl or splutter of the various local dialects, and the scarcely appreciable refinements

"THE TRUE HISTORY OF A LITTLE in prenunciation of other languages. The test was most varied and searching, and left no doubt on the minds of those present as to Mr. Bell's success. Various remarkable cases of the ease with which the system enabled the pro-nunciation of a foreign language to be taught were also related. The letters of his alphabet were not shown to the audience by Mr. Bell.

In addition to its use in teaching pronuncia-tion, the alphabet, in the opinion of the few who have examined it, will be eminently suited for telegraphic purposes. It is a chonetic system which the most different peoples can make use of and understand; and for telegraphic wires passing through several countries it seems to olve the problem which is found so troublesome on our Indo-European line. To the science of comparative philology its services will perhaps be most striking. It has long been the despair of philologists, to devise an alphabet which would represent the sounds of any and all languages for the purpose of comparison—an alpha-bet which might become a common one for travellers and missionaries exploring new regions or learning new languages, as well as for philo-logical savans. That desideratum seems now supplied, and if the alphabet can be generally adopted, it provides the means of stereotyping all the existing languages on the earth for the purposes of comparison and history.

INSECT LWAVES. M. Vandal, Postmaster-General, has presented the Jardin d'Acclimatization with three specimens of the most extraordinary natural curiosities, called fly leaves or insect leaves. These singular creatures belong to the grasshopper tribe, and bear an exact resemblance to the leaf of the gayava tree, on which they feed, not only in form, but in color. Certain parts of the insect are of a rusty brown, which precisely coincides with the tint of the branches of the gayava, and even the claws or feet of the insect are provided with foliacious pedicles which are of the same form as the leaves of the tree. A single living pecimen reached England some years ago. The bree now at the Jardin d'Acclimatization were brought from the Seychelles Island by M. Ber-theiln, who gave them to the Postmaster

JEFF. DAVIS.

Abandonment of the Attempt to Remove Jeff. Davis on Writ of Habeas Corpus.

FORTEESS MONBOE, April 11.-The rumor that an attempt would be made at Richmond, under the late proclamation of the President, to effect the removal to that city of Jen. Davis on a writ of habcas corpus, has proved correct. Among great length and in all its possible bearings, when the matter was dropped from very pos-tive assurance that they could do nothing in the ease. Jeff. Davis being a prisoner of the United States, in order to effect his removal in the way contemplated it was found the writ of habeas corpus would be inoperative unless bearing the approving signature of Chief Justice Chase

It being settled that the Chief Justice would not give the benefit of his signature to the proposed writ, it was further settled to let him alone, and not give him the opportunity of a reinsal, which might only complicate matters more. On the other hand, had a writissued by any of the judicial functionaries of this State been served on Major-General Miles here for the surrender of Jeff. Davis, he would most positively have disregarded it. Whether the friends of Mr. Davis, in the course of their deilberative ses-sions, took pains to ascertain this inct, I do not but this much I do know, that such would have been the course General Miles would have taken in the premises. Thus the case stands. Jeff. Davis is still here, and bids likely to remain until the powers that be, and the most exalted powers of the general Govern-ment, at that, ordain otherwise. Viewing the situation as described above, I

understand now that the triends of Mr. Davis most zealous in accomplishing his restoration to liberty-and among them it is understood that the term of imprisonment he has undergone, probably prolonged to a month more, will be the extent of punishment meted out to him, and that there need be no fears of his life or banishment from the country-have determined to wait the publication by the President of a general amnesty proclamation. It is confidently believed and asserted that such proclamation will be speedily forthcoming, and that the name of Jeff. Davis will head the list of those to be benented by it. It is even positively asserted that the sentiments of the Cabinet have been canvassed on the subject, and that the influence of the majority will be given to accomptise such end. While the fact is remembered that the orders given once on a time by Jeff. Davis to his torces in Tennessee to shoot Andrew Johnson on sight, is not likely to have been forgot-ten by the latter, it is argued that the President's friendly feelings to the people of the States lately in rebellion, and the anxiety to restore not only the old Union of land and States, but the union of hands and hearts as well, will induce President Johnson to merge all personal feelings of bitterness and hatred to his sole desire and conscientious self-sacrificing determination to achieve such result. As to his using his power to open the prison doors of Jeff. Davis, and let him go tree again, there are those who hope for it and those who do not. While many urge such a step as not only one of expediency, but one of duty, and in following out its alleged beneficial results upon the future of the country, portray the grandest historical record awaiting the President's own mapping out for himself, others think and assert that treason should be punished. and that only the telon's doom should await the head and leader of men who planted barrels of powder under Libby Prison, attempted the burning of our cities, and perpetrated that crowning act of infamy, the assassination of President Lincoln. Jeff. Davis is fond of smoking. Let him put that in his pipe and smoke it; and as he watches the smoke gracefully curling upward, let him hope and pray with what strength and fervor he may.— N. Y.

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